

UNOFFICIAL

CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

JANUARY 24, 2008

MINUTES

A special meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, January 24, 2008, at the Cumberland Administrative Office/Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, was called to order by Chairman Frederic C. Crowley at 7:36 PM, with the following present:

Frederic C. Crowley, Chairman, Robert Thibodeau, Vice Chair, Karen MacBeth, Clerk, Lisa Beaulieu, Donald J. Costa, W. David Wagner, Earl T. Wood

Also Present: Donna A. Morelle, Ed.D., Superintendent; Susan C. Carney, Ph.D, Assistant Superintendent; Joseph A. Rotella, Esq., Director of Administration

I. Pledge of Allegiance - The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Thibodeau.

II. Approval of Agenda - Mr. Thibodeau made a motion to approve the agenda. A second was provided by Ms. Beaulieu for discussion. Ms. Beaulieu stated she requested at the last meeting an item be added to the agenda, that a report out of a vote from Executive Session that occurred on 10-26-06 and requested again it be added to a future

agenda. The Chair explained Mr. Rotella informed him it did not have to be an agenda item and could be reported out this evening. She would still like it as an agenda item at the next meeting. The Chair asked the Superintendent to add to the next agenda. Mr. Wood noted there were items listed for reconsideration and asked how they were put on the agenda. The Chair explained he spoke to Mr. Costa and Ms. Beaulieu about it. Mr. Costa denied the conversation. Ms. Beaulieu stated she didn't realize it was for reconsideration. Discussion ensued regarding Roberts Rules of Order and interpretations. It was suggested the ones voting in the negative vote to put the item back on the agenda. Ms. MacBeth expressed concern there is a mis-communication with how this was put on the agenda, whether it was in a timely manner and whether this is a special committee. She also commented there is a lengthy list of items to be reported out from executive session. Mr. Wood was not comfortable with how these items were put on the agenda. The Chair explained he and Mr. Rotella will be going over the executive session minutes. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 5-1 TO APPROVE the agenda, with Mr. Costa voting against, and Mr. Wagner not having arrived.

III. Chairperson's Report - The Chair reported the passing of a long time icon, teacher, president of the CTA, L. Russell Connell. He stated he had a letter from Steven Mooney and asked the Superintendent to respond. Ms. MacBeth commented on an item in the letter, Math Investigations, and asked if someone from the math department of education or RIDE could come speak.

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The Superintendent said she could look towards someone from the Department of Education or the consultant from RIC who is working in the district. The Chair also noted a letter from Mrs. Mundy that was forwarded to Mr. Gibbons' committee.

IV. Comments from the Public - Mr. Kelly commented this committee is not a special committee and that reconsideration of a vote has to take place the same night and executive session minutes do not have to be approved to report out. He also commented on the status of Dr. Morelle's contract. Mr. Dennen explained he lives next to Community School and requested the pod to collect clothing and shoes be moved. The Superintendent explain she will contact the company to have it moved to a different location. Ms. Connerton presented a petition requesting no contract extension for the Superintendent. She also noted the kindergarten aides are set to leave the kindergarten February first and noted there was no heat in the classroom. The Superintendent reported on the heat situation at B.F. Norton, that they determined it was not necessary to delay or cancel school because one boiler was firing. It was cold in the corridor and she was aware some students did wear their coats all day. Ms. Acosta commented that losing the kindergarten assistants would be disruptive and encouraged keeping them. Ms. MacBeth suggested

reconsidering the vote on kindergarten aides. Mr. McLaughlin stated he is upset with the public perception and said there was no mention of incentive pay and would like to see public trust restored.

V. Reports of Standing Committees

A. Curriculum Committee - Ms. Beaulieu explained they talk about data, strengths, weaknesses and how to make Cumberland a better school system and invited the public to attend. She made a power point presentation on Key Works for School Boards. highlighting their adoption of goals toward communication, policies and student achievement. She showed their work on the school committee vision, initiatives at Cumberland High School. The will also be presenting these initiatives to the full school committee as well as updates on gaps by Dr. Carney.

Mr. Wagner's arrival is noted at 8:34 p.m.

B. Rules & Regulations Committee - Mr. Costa reported meeting Wednesday and will be meeting again next Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. to tackle fund raising and international field trips. Ms. MacBeth asked if there was a moratorium on field trips and the Superintendent explained there was discussion on fees, but field trips are being planned at this time.

C. Special Programs Committee - Mr. Thibodeau reported meeting on energy savings and with the work of the Superintendent and central administration have come up with a program that will have a savings

of \$4,163,722 over ten years. Information is forthcoming. He also reported meeting on the employee recognition program.

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They have asked the Superintendent to invite representatives from the CTA and ICSE to attend a subcommittee meeting on an employee appreciation program.

VI. Consent Agenda

A. Personnel Recommendation

1. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Ms. Beaulieu, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE** the retirement of Amilee Bianco, Guidance Counselor at B.F. Norton School, effective at the end of the 2007/2008 School year.

2. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE** the retirement of JoAnn Conway, Nurse/Teacher at Cumberland High School, effective at the end of the 2007/2008 school year.

Mr. Crowley turned the chair over to Mr. Costa due to a conflict of interest.

3. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was **VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE** the retirement of Jacqueline Crowley, Math/Science Coordinator & Enrichment Specialist at B.F. Norton

School, effective at the end of the 2007/2008 school year, with Mr. Crowley recused.

Mr. Crowley resumed the Chair.

4. On a motion by Mr. Costa and Mr. Wagner, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the retirement of Linda Freudigmann, Grade 5 Teacher at B.F. Norton School, effective at the end of the 2007/2008 school year.

5. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the resignation of Christopher Fernandes, Girls' Outdoor Track & Field Assistant Coach at Cumberland High School, effective 1/25/2008. Mr. Costa noted Mr. Fernandes will be the Head Coach.

VII. Approval of Minutes

A. Special Meeting: 10/19/06

Reconsideration of 11/30/06 Vote to Approve Special Reconsideration of 10/19/06

Ms. Beaulieu made a motion to reconsider. Mr. Wagner provided a second. Ms.

MacBeth expressed concern that this was over a year and four months ago. Mr. Wood made a point of order that this was an Open Meeting and the minutes were not sealed. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 6-0-1 TO APPROVE, with the following voting AYE: Mr. Thibodeau, Mr. Wagner, Ms. MacBeth, Ms. Beaulieu, Mr. Wood, Mr. Crowley; ABSTAIN: Mr. Costa. The Chair noted the minutes would be posted on the Secretary of State web site.

B. Executive Session: 10/12/06

Reconsideration of 11/30/06 Vote to Approve Executive Session Minutes of 10/12/06

On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was VOTED 6-1 TO APPROVE, with Mr. Wood voting against. The Chair reported there were no motions other than to adjourn.

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C. Executive Session: 10/19/06

Reconsideration of 11/30/06 Vote to Approve Executive Session Minutes of 10/19/06

On a motion by Ms. Beaulieu, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was VOTED 5-1-1 TO APPROVE, with Mr. Wood voting NAY, and Mr. Costa ABSTAINING. The Chair reported the contracts for Special Education Director and Deputy Director were approved.

Discussion ensued regarding the minutes. Mr. Wood made a motion to TABLE and Ms. Beaulieu provided a second. The minutes were located and Mr. Wood WITHDREW his motion to table. Ms. Beaulieu withdrew the second. The Chair reported it was voted 6-0 to give the Superintendent a \$3,000 stipend for meeting her goals.

D. Executive Session: 10/26/06

Reconsideration of 11/30/06 Vote to Approve Executive Session Minutes of 10/26/06

Mr. Costa made a motion to approve. Mr. Wagner provided a second. Ms. MacBeth asked if she needed to recuse herself from any portion of the minutes because she is in them. The Chair said there was no vote regarding Ms. MacBeth. Ms. MacBeth expressed concern this is being reported out after more than a year. She finds an issue with this meeting and there are over 180 days past this meeting. She felt there were things discussed in the Executive Session that shouldn't have been and should have been discussed in Open Session. Ms. MacBeth expressed concern for the vote taking place. Mr. Costa asked to see the minutes saying he never saw the minutes. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 6-1 TO APPROVE, with the following voting AYE: Mr. Thibodeau, Mr. Wagner, Mr. Costa, Ms. Beaulieu, Mr. Wood, Mr. Crowley; NAY: Ms. MacBeth. The Chair reported the 7-0 vote to extent the Superintendent's contract; a vote of 4-3 to approve Lisa Beaudoin's contract and a vote of 4-3 to approve the Director of Special Education contract; voted 5-0-1 to approve the Superintendent's goals.

E. Executive Session: 11/29/07

On a motion by Ms. MacBeth, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was VOTED 6-1 TO APPROVE TABLING, with Mr. Wagner voting against.

F. Executive Session: 12/13/07

On a motion by Ms. MacBeth, and a second by Mr. Costa, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the minutes.

F. Report Out Vote on Executive Session: 2/8/07

Mr. Rotella had advised the committee to disclose the vote taken in Executive Session on February 8th. Mr. Wood made a motion to TABLE due to pending legal investigation. Ms. MacBeth provided a second. It was VOTED 5-2 TO APPROVE tabling, with the following voting AYE: Mr. Costa, Ms. MacBeth, Ms. Beaulieu, Mr. Wood, Mr. Crowley; NAY: Mr. Thibodeau, Mr. Wagner. Ms. MacBeth requested this be placed on the agenda when resolved.

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Mr. Wagner stated this is now approaching 365 days and they need to remember to report his out and explained to the public that they are not trying to hide anything, there are rules they have to follow. The Chair stated he would reconsider his vote. Mr. Costa made a motion to reconsider. Mr. Wagner provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 4-3 TO APPROVE, with the following voting AYE: Mr. Thibodeau, Mr. Wagner, Mr. Costa, Mr. Crowley; NAY: Ms. MacBeth, Ms. Beaulieu, Mr. Wood.

Mr. Wagner made a motion to report out. Mr. Thibodeau provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 4-3 TO APPROVE, with the following voting AYE: Mr. Thibodeau, Mr. Wagner, Mr. Costa, Mr. Crowley; NAY: Ms. MacBeth, Ms. Beaulieu, Mr. Wood. The Chair

reported he has been notified that an action that had been initiated by an employee has been closed at the Commission for Human Rights. That vote was 4-3 to reconsider the employee's termination.

G. Open Session: 12/13/07

On a motion by Mr. Wagner, and a second by Ms. MacBeth, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE** the minutes.

IX. Old Business

A. Building Committee Update - Mr. Wood reported CHS2010 will be meeting on February 11th. The 3.5 committee met last night and construction continues at Ashton. The grease traps and water hook up at Cumberland Hill are done and the rest of the steel is going up. The next 3.5 meeting will be February 6th. The Chair asked if there were carbon monoxide detectors at the schools and Mr. Wood said he would check with Mr. Hilton.

X. New Business

A. Credit Recovery Pilot Program - The Superintendent introduced Mr. Pires, Ms. Pendergast and noted a number of staff members were present. The program focuses on students being successful. They identified students who were failing one or more classes. If interventions are unsuccessful they are often left to work with a student who has been retained. The student will then receive tutoring and given work for the next grade. If they are successful, they may be moved into the next grade in all classes. Ms. Beaulieu asked if there is a resource for parents to feel comfortable in the parent

partnership and Mr. Pires explained the guidance counselors are providing resources. The Superintendent asked for a vote of approval from the Committee and it will be put on the next agenda.

B. Home School Instruction Request 2007-08 School Year - Dr. Carney explained this was for a student who had been in a private school. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the request.

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C. Ratification of 2006-2009 ICSE Contract - On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Ms. MacBeth, it was VOTED 6-1 TO APPROVE tabling, with Mr. Wagner voting against.

XI. Superintendent's Report - The Superintendent thanked the Committee for reporting out on her contact.

XII. Comments from the Public - Ms. Jeannotte commented her son suffered a head injury when his teacher was alone in the classroom and the kindergarten assistants made a safer environment.

XIII. School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports) - On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Ms. MacBeth and Mr. Wagner,

it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE sealing the Executive Session minutes of January 24, 2008.

Mr. Wood commented he hoped all the Executive Session minutes would be reviewed, requesting the December 14, 2006 Executive Session would be put on the next agenda to be reported out. Ms. MacBeth requested all Open Session and Executive Session meetings be recorded, and the videos be continued. She also asked for an update on the tracking at the middle school, especially in math.

She would like to know how many students were moved and how long they spent if they were moved down. The Superintendent noted the changes would happen on the quarter, so the change would be happening now at the end of the second quarter. Dr. Carney suggested not putting on the agenda until the middle school has had the end of the second marking period so they can look at what the next movement might be. Ms. MacBeth also asked for an update on what RIASC has done for this committee because it was a significant amount of money and asked how the other members have been impacted. Ms. MacBeth stated the Northern RI Collaborative seems to be a hot topic and asked if issues should be discussed in Executive Session or Open Session. She asked if anyone was willing to reconsider the vote on TA's to have it put on the agenda. She stated if there are over 400 community members putting their names on a petition every member on the committee needs to consider what is going on. Ms. Beaulieu asked the Credit Recovery Pilot Program members to raise their hands for recognition. She stated sometimes

the kids just need a little help. Mr. Costa requested the Superintendent add discussion of the kindergarten aides to the February 14th agenda. He asked to continue the TA's until the next meeting, but the CTA President noted they cannot sub more than 45 days. He also requested reconsideration of the July 16, 2007 vote be added to the next agenda. Mr. Costa explained he is guilty of not reading the minutes of the October 26th Executive Session minutes and he does not recall the letter from Dr. Morelle. Mr. Wager commented Mr. Pires was doing a terrific job and thanked the public for attending. He noted the budget meetings are coming up and it will be very difficult and he hoped everyone will be there.

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He would like to know what they think and they should let the town representatives, state representatives and the Governor know money is needed to run the school system. Ms. MacBeth stated she felt they should go into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent's contract.

XIV. Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion and/or Action Items Referred to in GLRI 42-46-5

A. Personnel Matters - Exception (1)

B. Negotiations/Litigation - Exception (2)

- 1. CTA/ICSE**
- 2. Central Administrators' Contract**
- 3. Non-Contractual Salaries**
- 4. Potential Litigation**

None.

XV. Adjournment - Mr. Thibodeau made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Beaulieu provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was voted 4-3 to approve, with the following voting AYE: Mr. Thibodeau, Mr. Wagner, Ms. Beaulieu, Mr. Crowley; NAY: Mr. Costa, Ms. MacBeth, Mr. Wood. Open session adjourned at 9:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Harris

Recording Secretary

Subject to approval by the School Committee